

Student Paper Assails

Prof's Kennedy Article

Calls Attack on President 'Base and Unwarranted'

Prof. Revilo P. Oliver was severely criticized Wednesday by a majority of Illinois' student newspaper for charging that the late President John F. Kennedy aided the "Communist conspiracy."

Oliver published the charge as part of an article in the current issue of the John Birch Society magazine, American Opinion.

Oliver, a classics professor of the university's Champaign-Urbana campus, also wrote that Mr. Kennedy's "memory will be cherished with distaste" by Americans.

IN AN EDITORIAL, Roger Ebert, editor of the Daily Illini, defended Oliver's right to write such an article.

But he said, "I have read the article and at times I felt like throwing the magazine across the room."

"It is a base and unwarranted attack against a President I respect as a patriot and leader. I totally disagree with what Prof. Oliver has to say."

EBERT added that he regretted that the Oliver article was given "serious national treatment" in the press and that Oliver's opinions, in some quarters, have been incorrectly associated with the university.

University officials were reported studying the 16-page article by Oliver, who is a national councilor of the Birch group.

"THE MATTER will be looked into; we'll undoubtedly get some complaints," said Howard W. Clement, Chicago patent attorney and president of the U. of I. board.

Clement added that UI professors "have all the rights of free speech of any private citizen."

"Unless (Oliver) has gone so far as to bring the university into the picture, I doubt there will be anything done to him at this time," he said.

But Clement added that university statutes require a faculty member to be "mindful of the fact (he must use) accuracy and dignity befitting his association" with the school.

RAY PAGE, state superintendent of public instruction and ex-officio member of the UI board said he will take a copy of Oliver's article, if he can find one, to the Feb. 18 trustees meeting.

"From what you tell me, it doesn't meet with too good a favor from me," Page said.

"I'd like to know what he is basing the statements on."

U. OF I. board member Harold Pogue of Decatur reserved judgment until he reads the article, but said:

"I certainly don't agree with the John Birch Society, for one thing."

"I certainly don't agree with (any accusations that President Kennedy helped) the Communist conspiracy in any way, manner or form."

BOARD member Wayne Johnston, president of the Illinois Central R.R., said "I will certainly get hold of (the article) and then I'll make some comment."

A spokesman for UI President David D. Henry also said Henry would not comment on the article until he had read it.

But he said, "The matter will be referred for study by proper academic offices at the university."

OLIVER said President Kennedy was doing much for the "Communist conspiracy," but was falling behind a scheduled date for the "effective capture of the United States" in 1963.

Robert Welch Jr., founder of the John Birch Society and editor of the magazine, called Oliver's article a "superb commentary."

Oliver also charged that President Kennedy:

- "Procured his election by peddling boob-bait to the suckers."

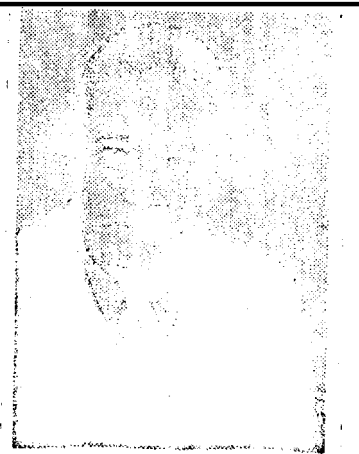
- Backed the Central Intelligence Agency in "a fake invasion" of Cuba designed to strengthen our mortal enemies here."

- Collaborated with Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev in a "phony embargo" to give cover for transfer of Soviet troops and weapons to be used against the United States.

- Arranged for subversion and sabotage of America's defenses.

Oliver wrote: "If the international vermin succeed in completing their occupation of our country . . . Americans will remember Kennedy while they live, and will curse him as they face the firing squads or toil in a brutish degradation that leaves no hope for anything but a speedy death."

Oliver also said that Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, was a "Communist agent" who was



REVILO P. OLIVER

"trained in sabotage, terrorism and guerrilla warfare (including accurate shooting from ambush) in the well-known school for international criminals near Minsk (Russia)."

Oliver added there could be only three explanations why Mr. Kennedy was murdered by Oswald:

- "Kennedy was executed by the Communist conspiracy because he was planning to turn American. . . I wish I could believe that."

- "The assassination was the result of one of the rifts that infrequently occur within the management of the Communist conspiracy."

- "The conspiracy ordered the assassination as part of systematic preparation for a domestic takeover."

Oliver called the U.S. Cen-

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that Intelligence Agency "now the major branch of the Soviet secret police in the United States."

Clement said Oliver's writings "make Sen. Joseph McCarthy sound like a leftist."

REVILO P. Oliver (his first name is his last name spelled backwards) was hard to reach Tuesday in his home at Urbana.

His wife said he is usually busy, writing or lecturing. He and his wife have two children.

He was born in Corpus Christi, Tex., in 1910, then received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Illinois in 1932 and 1935. He earned his Ph.D.

at the U. of I. in 1940 and served in the Army during World War II. He has been on the UI faculty since 1937.

A BRIEF biography with his American Opinion article characterizes him as "an academician of international reputation who has published scholarly articles in four languages."

Fellow faculty members have called him "a brilliant scholar in the classics."

CHARLES FLYNN, assistant to the UI president Henry, said "there isn't much comparison" between Oliver and Prof. Leo F. Koch, who was ousted from his post in

1960 after condoning premarital sex relations in an article in a campus newspaper.

"Koch was dealing with a student problem and his advice was contrary to moral standards generally accepted by most people," Flynn said.

Oliver, he added "was commenting on a national policy matter not directly related to the university or its program."

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